



Clark County Charter Review Commission

At Large: Doug Lasher, Eric Holt, Open Seat

District 1: Anthony Vendetti, Kim Harless (*Co-Chair*), Chris Goodwin

District 2: Chuck Green, Kelsey Potter, Dorothy Gasque

District 3: Maureen Winningham, Terri Niles, Jeff Angelo

District 4: Deanna Rusch, John Latta, Greg Anderson

Memorandum

To: Charter Review Commissioners

From: Chuck Green, Chair, Drafting Committee

Re: DRAFT Charter Amendment Packages for Commission's First Reading

Date: June 29, 2021

Fellow Commissioners:

Attached are the Charter amendment proposals translated into ballot language by the Drafting Committee. These had input from all sub-committees prior to finalizing these drafts.

Each draft amendment measure has a cover resolution. The cover resolution was developed to comply with the "ELECTION GUIDE FOR JURISDICTIONS, Includes Local Voters' Pamphlet Administrative Rules" released by the Clark County Elections Department for 2021 elections¹. The resolutions and resultant ballot language were developed to comply with the following requirements:

1. Identification of the enacting legislative body (Charter Review Commission)
2. A statement of the subject matter, or Ballot Title (up to 10 words)
3. A concise description of the measure (up to 75 words)
4. A question: "Should this amendment to the Clark County Home Rule Charter be approved?"

Also included but not part of the body of the amendment resolutions is an Explanatory Statement to be included in the Voters' Guide, not to exceed 100 words. Each measure was developed as a "stand-alone" measure for the ballot; however, you will also note that for each nonpartisan measure, there are "scenarios" which are included because each refer to amending the same Charter section. In this case, the measure is referring to specific offices, but a scenario is included as to the amendment language if both nonpartisan measures pass. This is for code publishing purposes and is not an endorsement of the measure.

The following amendment proposals and their accompanying resolution number are attached:

2021-1: Provides for Minor Corrections and Technical Clarifications

2021-2: Nonpartisan Executive County Elected Offices

2021-3: Nonpartisan Offices - County Council

2021-4: Charter Review Frequency and Commissioner Terms of Office

2021-5: Adopt Ethics Code by Ordinance and an Autonomous Ethics Review Process

2021-6: Establishment of Office and Commission of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

2021-7: Establish Five-District County Council

¹ https://clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-03/2021_Jurisdiction_Guide_Revised%20-%20FINAL%20FINAL.pdf

The Districts Sub-Committee also wanted to note that the Five-District map and list of precincts by District were developed in accordance with state law, which is specifically Chapter 29A.76 RCW: REDISTRICTING. That state law provides the following criteria for redistricting boundaries:

- “Each internal director, council, or commissioner district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to each and every other such district comprising the municipal corporation, county, or special purpose district.
- Each district shall be as compact as possible.
- Each district shall consist of geographically contiguous area.
- Population data may not be used for purposes of favoring or disfavoring any racial group or political party.
- To the extent feasible and if not inconsistent with the basic enabling legislation for the municipal corporation, county, or district, the district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest.”

The resolutions were developed using City of Vancouver recent amendments to their own charter as well as a recent Clallam County Charter Review Commission ballot package.

The process moving forward is for the Commission to review and provide final edits to be incorporated into the final amendment and resolution packages at the July 7, 2021 meeting. The Commission will vote on each amendment, and those receiving a majority support will be moved forward to the November 2021 ballot.

After Commission action, for each measure moving forward to the ballot, a list of up to three individuals for each of a “Statement For” and “Statement Against” committee will need to accompany the signed resolution(s). It is recommended that upon action on the amendment resolutions on July 7, that the Commission through Clark County issue a call for committee volunteers for the Statements For and Against via a media release, with volunteered names due by July 21, 2021 so that Co-Chairs Harless and Green transmit with the signed resolutions (wet signatures) and names plus Explanatory Statements to the Elections Office that same week, to meet the August 3, 2021 deadline.

A special thank you from the Drafting Committee to the county’s GIS Department (Bob Pool, Deborah Whitcomb) and Elections Department (Greg Kimsey, Cathie Garber) for all of their help to the Committee for putting this together.

Drafting Committee: Chuck Green (Chair), Doug Lasher, Kim Harless, Chris Goodwin, Terri Niles, Deanna Rusch